



Titusville Morning News

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Principle of Republicanism

It is a fundamental principle of Republicanism that all power is created for and equal that Government derives its authority from the consent of the governed, and is organized to secure the protection and promotion of the happiness of its subjects. The universal consequence of making the people the absolute justice of these propositions, and the history of the world is a record of the failure of the people to secure the peace and prosperity of society to which they are entitled. As a logical sequence to these ideas, the right of suffrage has been conferred by our free constitution upon the citizen, that he may exercise by the ballot his consent to the enactment of the laws which affect his condition and guard against the invasion of rights. In the one class with the elective franchise, and depriving them from its exercise, and what can restrain the former from paying tribute to the latter? The latter is a moral acquisition. It is the province of the law to quench the spirit, to limit the operations of individual selfishness, to show all men with equality of rights. Equality of condition is impossible from the nature of things. Natural endowment, social position and the accidents of fortune produce grades and distinctions in human affairs, which law cannot abolish. These are desirable.

But equality of rights and of immunities is desirable, is possible, and is essential to the elevation, the progress and the happiness of mankind. Let us apply these doctrines to the great problem of the reconstruction of society in the Southern States. The rebellion which was inaugurated to fortify, extend and perpetuate slavery has, in the providence of God, resulted in its utter destruction, a municipal institution; and political government, social affairs and the industries of life are to be reorganized in the South on a new basis, in the spirit of these executive proclamations, and in harmony with the acts of Congress, which have pledged freedom to the slave, and denounced and prescribed the penalties of treason to their oppressors. As the case stands, the qualifications of electors have been fixed by the Constitutions of the several States, and it is maintained by some to be an interference of State rights for the Federal Government to interfere and regulate the matter.

Now, if the emancipated slaves are never permitted to vote until white citizens of the South admit them to that privilege, it will be a long day before the blacks become electors. But unless the blacks have a hand and a voice in the local legislation, of what practical advantage is the boon of freedom? To carry out, then, the intent of the proclamation, to prevent any onerousness or to forestall any oppression of emancipation by the Federal upon the State Governments, and at the same time to promote, as far as law may, the intelligent and honest discharge of the civic franchise, let the Federal Constitution be amended guaranteeing to every man, twenty-one years of age, native and naturalized in the Union, the right to vote, provided he is able to read. Man is held incapable of blinding himself legally before he reaches his majority, then he is presumed to be able to take care of his interests. Secondly, one who can read, in this newspaper, can inform himself as to the merits of every public man. Third, crime and ignominy, as should be the punishment of the main causes of disqualification. Fourth, we would not make the possession of property the condition of the right of suffrage, for property is not the only nor the chief right of possession which legislation is to protect. In conclusion, we believe that the colored population have nothing to hope for from the justice of humanity of the mass of whites in the South. These, if unrestrained, would produce a state of persecution scarcely less intolerable than slavery. It would depress them, check enterprise and retard education. It would be such protection as the wolf gives the lamb. The chain is broken, but the old hatred and contempt remain—hated on the part of the poor whites, and contempt on the part of the landed aristocracy, towards the free blacks. Only by giving the colored man the ballot can we require his services and redeem the National pledge, more sacred than his bonds. Only thus can we secure his liberty and prevent the usurpation of his rights. Only thus can we be vindicated by posterity.

The Double Murder in West Roxbury

There is an intense feeling among all classes of the citizens of the quiet village of West Roxbury in relation to the shocking double murder, which was committed by some fiendish brute upon two innocent children, while they were enjoying themselves in recreation among the green leaves of the Grove one week ago. Such a horrible deed cannot be found recorded in the whole history of crime in Massachusetts or elsewhere.

One of our reporters this morning visited the spot where the deed was committed, and found the bodies found. It is about two miles from the West Roxbury Post Office, and near the Dedham road, in what is known as Henry's Woods, some three hundred rods of land, and now owned by Thomas Motley, Esq., whose mansion is a fine residence. The two gentlemen from Boston were taking a stroll in the woods, found the body of the young girl on the slope of a hill and near a large rock, about two rods from a cross street called Bury street, and which is one of two streets running from the Dedham road, and but little used for drives. At this point the girl and her brother were, no doubt, met by the murderer, as the children had not

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